(a) the names of countries from where crude oil is being imported;

(b) whether any agreement for the import of crude oil has been signed recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) During the year 2003-04, so far, the Public Sector Oil Companies have entered into term contracts with the oil companies in the following countries for import of crude oil:

Country	Quantity (in million metric tonnes)
Saudi Arabia	11.20
Kuwait	8.00
UAE	4.70
Malaysia	2.50
Brunei	0.25
Libya	0.81
Iran	5.00

In addition to oil imports through term contracts, crude oil is also purchased through spot tenders.

Political Risk Insurance cover for Sudan Project

975. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has imprudently invested US$ 670 million in a Sudanese venture without assessing political risks;

(b) whether Sudan is high on the hit list of US, post-Iraq; and

(c) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has obtained a political risk insurance cover to safeguard its investments/stake in Sudan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has purchased 25% stake in the Greater

Nile Oil Project (GNOP) in Sudan from Talisman Energy Inc. Canada investing US$ 720 million (Rs. 3,456 crore approximately) on 12th March 2003, after due assessment of the risks and the mitigating factors.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) OVL has informed that they have taken standard political risk insurance policy covering confiscation, expropriation, nationalization and selective discrimination to the extent available.

New retail outlets of BPCL

976. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new retail outlets of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);

(b) if so, how many of them will be opened in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) by when they will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has proposal to set up retail outlet dealership in the country, including 12 outlets in the State of Andhra Pradesh, out of the Government approved marketing plans. In additional, regular surveys are carried out and locations found economically viable and having sufficient potential, are identified for setting up of retail outlets in all the States including Andhra Pradesh.

Cost and time overrun of Sakhlain-I project

977. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India in Sakhlain-I oil/gas project in USSR, is facing time and cost overruns even after having invested a whopping US$ 1.422 billion;

(b) if so, whether this is due to Moscow not clearing the feasibility report on flimsy pretexts;

(c) whether according to ONGC Videsh Ltd.'s estimation, the crude from Sakhlain-I is set to flow by 2005; and